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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
MANABU KATO) : Examiner: D. Schuberg
Appln. No.: 08/951,635) : Group Art Unit: 2872
Filed: October 17, 1997) :
For: SCANNING OPTICAL APPARATUS) March 16, 2000

#29
105
J McMiller
3/23/00

The Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SECOND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under
37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under
37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed
to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of
the listed documents are also enclosed.

REMARKS

As discussed in the accompanying Preliminary
Amendment, Applicant respectfully notes that Claims 61-72 were
copied exactly or in modified form from Claims 1-4 and 6-13 of
U.S. Patent No. 5,883,732 (Takata '732), which was cited and

discussed in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 26, 1999.

Applicant also respectfully notes that U.S. Patent No. 5,600,476 (Takata '476) discloses and claims, *inter alia*, an optical scanner including an imaging lens having aspheric surfaces in a main-scanning cross section, wherein the aspheric surfaces satisfy specified conditions.

Applicant further respectfully notes that U.S. Patent No. 5,781,323 (Takata '323) discloses and claims, *inter alia*, an optical scanner including an imaging lens comprising a single lens, wherein a curvature of a cross section, in parallel to a sub-scanning surface, of one surface on an incidental side and on an emergent side of the imaging lens continuously changes in a main-scanning direction in an effective area of the main-scanning cross section of the imaging lens, and wherein the scanner satisfies further specified conditions in an effective area of the lens surface.

Applicant respectfully submits, however, in view of the accompanying sworn translations of the priority documents for the subject application, that none of Takata '732, '476 and '323

qualifies as prior art to the subject application under the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103.

Applicant respectfully notes that U.S. Patent No. 5,111,219 discloses, *inter alia*, an imaging lens that has a shape in the sub-scanning direction perpendicular to the main scanning plane that varies continuously in accordance with a distance in the main scanning plane in a direction perpendicular to the optical axis (see column 8, lines 14-17).

Applicant further respectfully notes that U.S. Patent No. 5,179,465 discloses, *inter alia*, an imaging lens that has curvatures in the sub-scanning direction, when measured along cross sections taken in planes that are perpendicular to the main scanning plane and parallel to the optical axis, that vary continuously as a function of distance in the main scanning direction from the optical axis (see column 3, lines 40-47 and column 4, line 45-column 5, line 6).

Applicant also respectfully notes that Japanese Patent Laid Open No. 6-34900 discloses, *inter alia*, an optical scanning device including an optical scanning system that includes a semi-cylindrical second surface, convex in the main

scan direction and concave in the subscan direction. A translation of that document is enclosed.

The remaining Japanese documents are submitted for completeness in that they were cited during the prosecution of the Takata '732 patent. No translations were readily available for these documents. English-language abstracts, where available from a commercial database, are enclosed for the Examiner's convenience.

FORMAL MATTERS

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action on the merits of the subject application has not yet been received, Applicant believes that neither a statement, petition nor payment of a fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, Applicant authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge any fee which may be required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account 06-1205. A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.

CONCLUSION

Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the above information and return an initialed copy of the enclosed

Form PTO-1449 indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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